

House Education Committee Comments on Common Core Standards

Good Morning Chairwomen Lyons and other members of the Committee. My name is Ruthann Jaquette, I live in Grand Ledge and I am a mother of four boys who attend or have graduated from the Grand Ledge Public Schools. I would like to speak to you this morning about my avid support for the implementation of the **Common Core State Standards**.

I have done a lot of my own research and know that the **Common Core State Standards** were developed with the input of all 50 states and are nationally and internationally benchmarked. These Standards give Michigan's students the best opportunity to receive a quality, rigorous course of study that puts them in a position to compete not only with students from across the nation but the world regardless of what district they attend or what zip code they live in.

For those who would like to mislead us into believing that the **Common Core State Standards** are an attempt at a federal takeover of education, it should be said that this effort began with the National Governor's Association and the Standards were voluntarily adopted by State Legislatures and State Boards of Education. The **Common Core State Standards** are also not dictated curriculum. The **Common Core State Standards** are the *what*, curriculum is the *how*, and the how, and curriculum will still be determined by individual teachers and districts with valuable input from parents.

I have had the opportunity over the last several months to talk with many parents and teachers about the **Common Core State Standards** and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

The **Common Core State Standards** move Michigan in the right direction and I urge your continued support of their implementation. Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today.